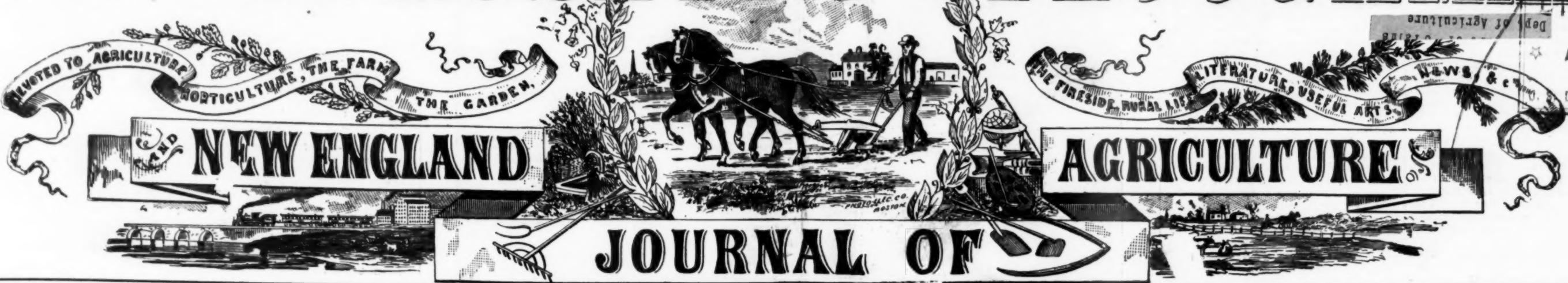


MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN



VOL. LVIII. - NO. 46.

BOSTON, MASS., SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1899.

WHOLE NO. 3006.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Official Organ of the N. E. Agricultural Society

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN PUB. CO.,
Publishers and Proprietors,

A. N. DARLING, Secretary.

ISSUED WEEKLY AT

NO. 3 STATE STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.

NEW YORK OFFICE,

60 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TERMS:

\$2.00 per annum, in advance. \$2.50 if not
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AGRICULTURAL.

Successful Potato Growing.

A better knowledge of the requisites of the potato crop will so largely increase its yield as to make it always profitable, even at moderate prices. This is done by growers who have had largest experience in growing this crop, and who never fail to secure good pay for their work, even when prices are the lowest. In the years when the average yield is cut short by drought or rot or blight, the profits of these successful growers are very large, while it is in just such seasons that the beginner in potato growing becomes so much discouraged that he retires from the business, until a year of good crops and fair prices starts him again to the growing of a crop which, until one becomes adept in it, is almost always disappointing.

There is another reason why so many who lack experience in growing potatoes fail with the crop. It is only in comparatively few localities that good crops of potatoes are pretty certain every year. The climate must be cool and moist during the growing season unless irrigation can be provided at the critical period of growth. The northern New England States are better for extensive potato growing than those on Long Island Sound. The best of localities is undoubtedly the Ansonia region in northern Maine. Thence eastward within thirty miles of the lakes is another good potato-growing region. Washington County in New York State is another, and there are good many potatoes grown in Vermont, near Lake Champlain. If we go beyond the great lakes, the principal localities for growing potatoes are the northern portions of Minnesota, where many small lakes keep the air moist and cool. There is much more potato growing land in Ontario and New Brunswick than there is in one place anywhere on the United States side of the line. In years when potatoes are generally a failure here, the Canadian crop is often good, and can be sold here at a profit despite the tariff.

Most of the failures in potato growing are due to an attempt to cultivate more acres than can be properly manured, fished, cultivated and cared for. No land should be planted with potatoes that has not a two-year-old growth of clover and which has been manured in the fall with stable manure spread evenly as possible over its surface. This should be plowed early to the depth of four inches, leaving three or four inches of loose soil on the surface by using the jointer plow. Roll this down as fast as it is plowed, and cultivate until the soil is thoroughly mixed with the clover sod. Plant the potato sets, cutting pieces so as to give each two good eyes, and putting one piece in each place. It is not necessary to make rows both ways. The potato sets are dropped about twelve inches apart in the rows, and the rows are three feet apart. So soon as the set is dropped in a slight furrow three inches deep, the soil is ridged over it. This ridge can be worked down before the potato comes up, thus destroying the early weeds and leaving the soil nearly level. As soon as the potatoes are up the soil is again ridged over them, taking care to do this when the soil is dry. All the after cultivation until harvesting is done with the cultivator run not more than one inch deep, and thus retaining moisture where it is needed by the mulch of loose surface soil that it furrows. Every light rain is taken advantage of for another cultivation. If it merely wets the soil half an inch, this damp soil is turned under before it has a chance to dry out.

The most common cause of failure with potatoes is poor seed, and neglect to spray promptly to prevent blight and rot. In this spraying against disease some paria green is blended, which keeps the potato beetles in check. Without healthy, whole foliage full crops of potatoes are impossible, as the tuber derives its starch from carbonic acid gas absorbed by potato leaves from the atmosphere. Keeping the leaves healthy is therefore essential in growing potatoes. Most beginners with potatoes put in too much seed. Where whole potatoes are planted a great many of the potatoes will be small and unsalable. In a dry time the potato leaf can be kept green several days longer by spraying with Bordeaux mixture. This means the growing to marketable size of many potatoes that would otherwise be too small for cooking and good for nothing, as seed from blighted potatoes makes weak, spindling hills the following year.

A good crop of potatoes should yield all the way from 200 bushels to 600 bushels, according to the season. It is less labor to take such a crop from one acre than from three to five acres, as is often done where potatoes are cultivated in the usual way. Most of the large potato growers are exceedingly particular about the seed they plant. It must be from a crop free from blight the previous year, and the potato must be free from scab. That insures strong growing plants and if the soil is a manured clover ley all the conditions that the farmer can make are favorable for a large crop if the season is a good one. But the crop is one that is more largely dependent on the season than most others that a farmer grows. Yet if potato growing is steadily followed it will give returns in a series of years proportionate to the cost of producing it, if the methods we have advised have been followed.

Farm Hints for August.

EARLY SEEDING WITH TIMOTHY.

A great deal of grass seed and clover also has failed this year, because of the dry weather during the early part of the season. There are many old meadows also on which the grass has grown thin, and which are not worth keeping in grass another year. To a limited extent such land can be manured and plowed next spring for hced crops. But there is more land than can be manured, and with neither manure nor much sod to plow under the prospect for corn and potatoes will be poor. Probably the best way to bring this land into profitable use is after the first good rain to plow the land very shallow, using a jointer plow so as to have a little loose soil to throw over the sod after it is turned under. It should be rolled as fast as plowed, and then be lightly harrowed so as to leave loose soil on the surface. Then sow timothy seed without further harrowing at the rate of six quarts of seed per acre. The first rains will start it to growing. Some crimson clover seed can also be sown at the same time, and both will grow together. The clover will probably be killed by the winter, but even if it be, it will protect the surface soil from packing, and will be something of a protection for the young timothy.

Where timothy seed is thus sown early, as August it will be a better crop of hay than could be grown on the land if it were not reseeded.

PASTURING GRAIN STEUBLES.

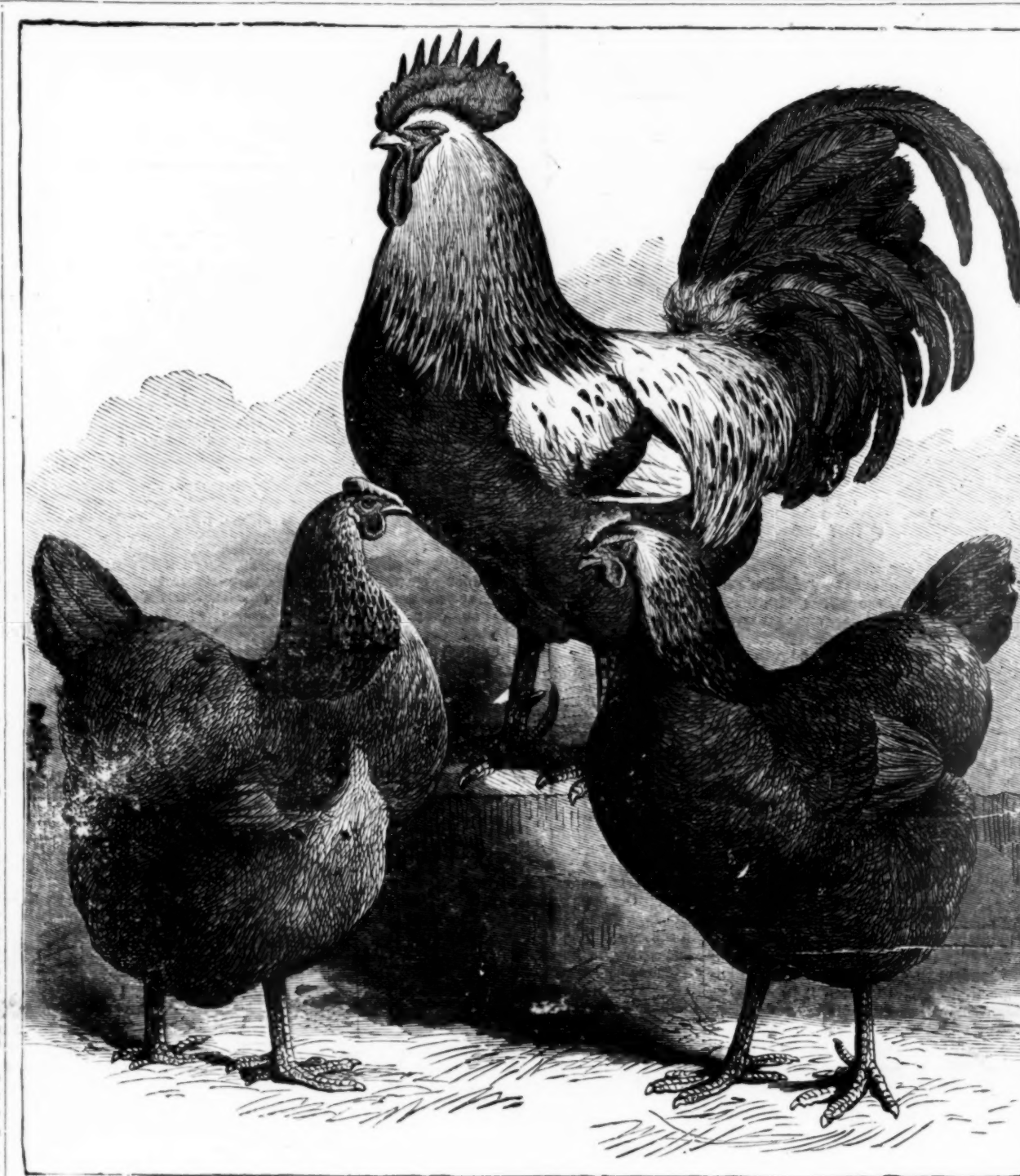
There is very little to be gained and much to be lost by turning stock into grain stubble to graze the gleanings. The modern harvesting machinery leaves little or no scattered grain. If there were any the stock would gather it up. As for the young grass and clover which has lived through the hard time while the ripening grain was taking all the moisture from the soil, it does not have enough food to last a cow a week in a five-acre field. It is always a mistake to pasture young clover. The feet of animals mow the leaves, and if the ground be soft they injure the root, which after grain harvest should be striking down into the subsoil for moisture. Only when clover sown last spring comes to the flowering stage, as it sometimes will, should its growth be stopped. Then it should be cut down with the scythe or mowed instead of being cropped off by pasturing stock.

IN THE GARDEN.

While the farmer has been busy with his haying and harvesting the garden has probably been more or less neglected. Weeds grow very fast during July and August, as the warmth induces the rapid decomposition of vegetable matter, and its conversion into the most stimulating fertilizer, ammonia. The garden grass has had its day, and the land after early peas and potatoes will need to be plowed, if only to keep it from being overgrown with weeds. Early in August is not too late to set celery, which is all the better for making a quick growth. The early celery set a month or more ago should have earth drawn around it, taking care not to let the soil get between the growing stalks, as it will cause rot.

SAVING SWEET CORN SEED.

The earliest corn to come to the right stage for use as green corn always bring a better price than those which mature later. The consequence is that these are always sold, and the best ears that mature when the price is low are saved for seed. The result is that farmers who save their own seed corn find that it gradually loses the earliness in maturing that made it valuable. None of the earliest corn of corn should be used for seed if earliness is desired. The early corn requires a long time to get started. A quick growth, planted after the ground is well warmed, will produce seed corn that will be several days earlier than corn planted in May and sipped by frost. This extra early corn is, however, generally grown at the expense of size. We know a farmer once who for many years chose the earliest ripening ears of his yellow field corn with-out regard to size. The result was that he produced in time a thin ear with small grains almost looking like pop-corn. This grain he kept to grind for his own use, and claimed that its meal was better than that from ordinary corn. The squirrel and mice always went for this grain first when



PRIZE WINNERS.

they attacked his corn crib, and the squirrel never deceived as to which is the best corn.

PREPARING FOR WHEAT SEEDING.

Wherever winter wheat is sown August is one of the busiest months of the year, for it is largely devoted to plowing and sowing stubble ground for the winter crop. If wheat succeeds barley the plowing may sometimes be done in July. But with oats the crop is not usually harvested early enough to do any plowing before August. But the importance of early plowing is so generally appreciated that we have known farmers to begin plowing for wheat before the last load of grain was taken from the field. The roller should always closely follow the plow after midsummer. There is usually some moisture in the soil when first plowed. If the furrow is as once compacted, this moisture will be preserved, and it will usually start the stubble to rotting, which will make more moisture. After every little rainfall, the surface soil should be cultivated two or three inches deep. In this way as good a seed bed can be made on stubble plowed early as need to be secured on a clover and summer fallowed in June and worked all through the summer. The stubble seed bed was really the best, for the rule was to work it only on the surface and make the soil below as compact as possible. If the farmer left the summer fallow to grow up with weeds so that it had to be plowed, the soil to the depth of the furrow was made.

DON'T WASTE FALLOW FRUIT.

While the weather is hot, as it usually is in August, all fruit that falls is apt to rot very rapidly unless cared for. The best means for doing this is to have an evaporator where after peeling and taking out the core or stone the fruit may be quickly dried. This is much better than the old time plan of drying in open air by the heat of the sun. The evaporator is kept at a temperature that it is not fatal to flies and other insects exposed to it. Out of door or sun drying leaves the dried fruit discolored and more or less fly specked. If the fruit in the evaporator is exposed to the fumes of sulphur it will be nearly white. Some people think that this bleached fruit is not healthy. Sulphur fumes are not good to breathe, but sulphur and molasses eaten is so often taken as medicine with no bad result that we doubt much if any danger can come from taking sulphur in dried fruit.

DESTRUCTING BUSKES.

Busks out to the ground early this month will often be entirely killed. The bush has exhausted its sap in making the summer growth of leaves, and if these are dried up, it has not enough sap to send up sprouts this fall. Some may start next spring, and these should be burned over if not where it will endanger buildings or forests. The fire will enter the buds at the base of the leaves sufficiently to kill them.

IMMATURE CORN FODDER.

So much of the early summer was dry that pastures have not had time to recover

from the close cropping they then had. It therefore is necessary in many places to begin cutting and feeding fodder corn before it is at its best. It is a mistake to think to ever feed fodder corn before it has come to the tasseling stage. From that time on, until the ears are set and the grain on them is in the milky stage, the nutriment in the fodder increases very rapidly. While the fodder is poorest it should be supplemented with grain or wheat bran, so that the cows shall not lessen their milk yield. If the cow begins to dry off now it will be impossible to increase her yield to what it was before, and the cow will be hard to keep on giving a mess worth milking all the coming winter.

PLOWING UNDER MANURE.

It is never good policy to plow under manure late in the season, and especially in preparation for a winter grain crop. The manure makes the soil porous under the furrow as well as on the surface, and thus it fills with water, causing the soil to lift, throwing out the roots when winter comes. It is not any advantage to the wheat to have coarse manure pressed for wheat and cultivated under. It is then in just the position where it dries out the surface soil. If a broad-tired wagon is used the manure can be better applied after the wheat is sown. Or it may be delayed until snow-fall and drawn upon the field, spreading it as evenly as possible on the snow.

MOUTLING HENS.

A hen that moults her feathers as early as August has plenty of time to prepare a new suit before cold weather comes, and will probably be a good winter layer. But to do this the hen should have the kind of feed necessary to make feathers. Some one bone should be given, as this provides very nearly what is needed, the composition of bone and feathers being chemically nearly the same. In addition, the hen should have a little sulphur mixed with her feed, and in her drink should have a small piece of copperas or sulphate of iron, which is a good tonic for hens at any time.

Bees and Honey.

There are some neighborhoods where bees are but poorly supplied with bees. These are not enough to visit and pollen the blossoms of the fruit trees, if they do not come miles for that purpose. And this is quite apt to be the case where small fruits, the strawberry and the bush fruit are much grown, unless some among the fruit growers have also begun beekeeping. Such fruits are quite as likely to fail to produce a good crop this year, because the rainy weather prevented bees from flying far from home at the time such plants were in bloom, as because of the dry weather since, though the latter will be more frequently blamed for it.

But there are just as surely some neighborhoods and sections which are overstocked with bees, or have more than can find honey plants without going long distances for them. They not only fail to secure a proper amount of surplus honey, such as thrifty colonies make in good

localities, but they did not have enough left them last fall to carry a strong colony through the winter, especially a winter so long and severely cold as our last winter. They thus had to perish of starvation unless some one took the trouble to feed them.

We lately saw a statement in an English paper, from a beekeeper who said he had just bought two colonies in "skeps," the old-fashioned straw hive, partly because he saw they needed feeding, and the farmer who owned them said they might starve if they could not get their own food, and partly because he would thus obtain new blood in his apiary. He believes new blood and an outflow for bees as necessary as for other live stock, which was a new idea to us, yet we do not see why it may not be the right idea.

But to return from our digression. The beekeeper who has reason to think there are too many bees in his neighborhood can remedy it in one of two ways, if it was not remedied by the loss of bees last winter. He can sell a part of his bees, or find some friend better located who will care for them, or he should grow honey-producing plants.

The list of such plants is a long one, and many of them, like the white clover in the pasture, the berry bushes in the garden, and a patch of buckwheat for the poultry, can be made profitable beside the honey they furnish.

Freshly bee keepers are a little more apt to have all things in readiness for the busy season in their business than the average farmer. They know that there is not much time to build hives and fill frames with empty comb, or foundation, after the bees are ready to swarm, and most of them do that during the winter. They are very sure to do so if they are at all enthusiastic in their business. The men who watch their colonies in the fall to see that they are strong and have good healthy queens and plenty of stores, or who feed any which they may think have not enough, do not expect to have empty hives and combs to furnish to the new swarms in the spring as a result of the loss of colonies that have died.

Yet we have heard of men who depended upon just that thing to enable them to take care of their new swarms. They are lucky if they succeed in saving enough of the old colonies and getting swarms enough to keep their number of colonies about the same each year. They are the men who are complaining that there is no profit in beekeeping, because there are so many engaged in it that the price of honey is too low to allow any profit. They do not believe in feeding the bees, because sugar costs too much, and cannot be worth to believe that a half dollar's worth of sugar given at the proper time may save a \$5 colony of bees, and enable it to send out another colony as good as itself, beside gathering 50 pounds or more of honey. They are too saving in the small things to make successful beekeepers, and most of them will not succeed

either in anything else for the same reason: if they were going fishing they would not bait their hooks if they had to buy their bait. We have not much patience with such small economies.

Perhaps it is well to have an occasional severe winter like the past to discourage such parties and drive them out of the business, that those who will better deserve success may have a monopoly of it. The man in any business who thinks success depends upon maintaining high prices by limiting production is a curse to the business as well as to the community, and should give way to those who believe in cheapening cost of production, and increasing the demand by being able to make a profit by selling at lower prices.

An English beekeeper writes to a London paper that to have a quantity of old honey in the hive in the spring may be a fortunate thing if the season is fair, but it is not evidence of good beekeeping. If the season comes to open early with a good honey flow, the queen will not have room in which to lay her eggs, so that she may have a strong colony.

He prefers to leave them enough to last until an early spring, and to keep in his store room a sufficient number of well-filled combs that he may give them, if he finds them likely to run short before blossoms open, and he finds it profitable to do this because it is the best and strongest colonies which are most likely to exhaust their supplies, and if they are not so reduced as to die of starvation, they require a long time to recover from the effects of it, and lose the best of the honey season.

Colonies which have been among the best one year sometimes fail to make many stores the next year, from no other reason than that during the winter there were many months to feed, and not food enough for them. Some may need to be fed a half pint of sugar syrup every day, and others will take much less, and the way of judging best is to give them as much as they will take away each day.

Farm Hints.

An investigation of the water supply on the farms in Canada, in which 55 samples were tested, resulted in showing that about one-fourth were so badly polluted by drainage from barnyards, vaults and other sources as to be dangerous to the health of those using the water. About half of the remainder were put down as unsuitable, and probably unsafe, at least for those who were not in robust health. This left about one-quarter of the whole number as having pure, wholesome water.

Every one should know what this means to the parties living upon the farms and using such polluted water. It means the prevalence of typhoid and typhus fevers; of bowel troubles, and kidney troubles, and even in the cases where the water is only suspiciously poor, it means a low state of vitality which leaves the system weakened and ready to yield to almost any disease that may come along, and without power to resist its attacks or to recover health and strength after the physician has driven away the disease.

What reason have we to believe that the wells, at least in the older of the United States, are in any better condition than those in Canada, one-half absolutely dangerous to health, and the other half suspiciously near it? We think that in some sections so much has been said upon this point that people are not so sure as they were once that water is pure and wholesome because it is cold and contains no sediment. We think that physicians who find fevers and other diseases prevalent upon a farm or in a neighborhood are apt to suspect the quality of the water supply and investigate, but we know that there are yet many cases where it would be economy to get a new well farther from the buildings, or new buildings and yards farther from the well.

When we were actively engaged in work upon the farm every day, we rather enjoyed using the hand hoe in a field where the cultivator or horse hoe had been through ahead of us, and where the weeds in the rows were not too large or too abundant. We could get over a good bit of such land in a day, and it pleased us to see how much it improved the looks of the field.

Perhaps this was one reason why we did not take very kindly to the idea of giving up hand hoeing, and using fertilizer enough to feed both the weeds and the plants. But it was not altogether that, for we had an idea that the weeds were robbing the plants of moisture as well as of fertility, and Eastern farmers cannot supply moisture when they would like to, as do the Western farmers on irrigated land. And yet another reason for using the hand hoe. It is desirable that the soil between the rows be kept stirred by frequent use of the horse hoe, that it may better absorb moisture from the night dew, and prevent evaporation from the ground below. Why does not that in and around the plants need also to be kept stirred. Particularly does this seem to be necessary upon clayey loams, where the ground, as it gets dry, bakes up almost like a turtle shell, and is very near as impervious to the moisture of a summer shower, yielding only to a prolonged rain.

We have sometimes thought that weeds were a blessing in disguise, as if they were not there, some of those farmers who have such an antipathy to the hand hoe would never loosen the soil among their plants during the whole season of growth, and the result would be worse than the damage done by the weeds.

A correspondent of the Wisconsin Agriculturalist relates his experience of some years ago in plowing deep and shallow for corn. The field was upland, with a rather

thin surface soil and a rather compact clay subsoil, cold and sour, which would absorb but little warmth from the sun.

The plow was set to cut but a shallow furrow, but when it was about half plowed, the wheel which regulated the depth of plowing was broken and the rest of the field was plowed much deeper. Corn was planted, and when it came up the places where the wheel broke could be seen by the color of the corn. Where the field was plowed shallow the corn leaves were a deep green, while it was a pale yellow, sickly looking lot where it was plowed deep, and it continued so through the season, not yielding more than half the quantity of stalks or grain that was produced where the plowing was shallow.

He also gives the results of an experiment tried at the University of Wisconsin from 1871 to 1873, which we will give in his own words.

"The first year an acre plot of corn ground plowed five inches deep produced five bushels more corn than an acre plot plowed 12 inches deep, and nearly 11 bushels more than an acre plot plowed 12 to 17 inches deep, and 13 bushels more than an acre plot subsoiled 17 inches deep. The plots were all plowed in the fall and again in the spring, and top dressed with 60 bushels of unleached wood ashes before planting. The next year being droughty the deeply plowed plots averaged about nine bushels more than the shallow plowed plots. The following season, which was wet, the shallow plowed plot produced two bushels more corn than the deeply plowed plots.

"The twice plowing, by again bringing to the surface the top soil, was no doubt more beneficial to the deep plowed plots than to the shallow, and the top dressing with ashes more necessary and important to the deeply plowed plots than to the shallow. This experiment proved that deep plowing and surface manuring were the best for dry seasons."

We think in a deep, heavy soil there is but little gained by deep plowing for corn, unless the surface has been cropped by shallow plowing and scanty manuring for many years, and even then we should follow deep plowing with some other crop than corn, until the soil had become pliable by cultivation, and the growing of some deep rooted crop.

A trust or combine is being formed for the purpose of buying up cornstalks, of which they say 250,000,000 tons are burned or left to rot every year, when they should be worth \$6 a ton. One company with factories in Kentucky and Illinois is now making cellulose, for lining battleships, cardboard, a splendid paper, a foundation for dynamite, a patent cattle food and a glue from cornstalks, and are said to be successful with all these products. We are glad to hear of this, because we think there have been many tons of stalks wasted in the Western States, but most of our Eastern farmers would not sell them for \$6 a ton if they had to take them to feed. They are worth two-thirds the price of hay, if well cured.

Domestic and Foreign Fruits.

The supply of apples is large and only the best sell readily. Some fancy Nyack Pippins from New Jersey bring as high as \$2.75 a barrel, but more go at \$2 to \$2.50. Astrachans are over ripe in many cases, and such go at \$1.25 to \$1.50, but firm fruit goes at \$1.75 to \$2. Williams apple and Sweet Bough range from \$1.50 to \$2.00, and Sour Bough from \$1 to \$1.50. Le Conte pears from Florida bring \$2 to \$3 a barrel. There is a fair supply of grapes from North Carolina, and in eight basket carriers they are \$1.75 to \$2 for Delaware, \$1.50 to \$1.75 for Niagara, and \$1 to \$1.25 for black varieties. California pears, good to choice, \$1.50 to \$2.50 a case, peaches at \$1 to \$1.75, plums \$2 to \$2.75 and prunes \$1.50 to \$1.80. Blueberries, natives, 6 to 8 cents a box. Blackberries 5 to 10 cents, currants 5 cents a quart for small and 8 to 9 cents for large red. Raspberries 5 to 8 cents a pint. Mulberries are plenty. Gem and Jenny Lind 50 cents a half barrel, Christina \$1 a crate, Anne Arundel, Rocky Ford and Baltimore Gem 75 cents to \$1 a crate, and common varieties 50 cents to \$1 a barrel. Watermelons are lower, with heavy supplies and light demand. Small to medium \$10 to \$14, large \$15 to \$18, and some extra \$20 a hundred.

Maine's Cat Industry.

There were larger shipments of cats from Maine the past year than for any season previous, there being over 6000 cats shipped out of the State, going to all parts of the United States and exported to foreign countries.

One concern alone, the Walnut Ridge Farm Company of Bangor, sent 886 Angoras; Frederick D. Nudd of Waterville, 488; Mr. Emory of North Anson, 339; Mrs. Mary H. Rawlett of Rockland, 238; E. W. Palmer of Rockland, 114; J. W. Dean of Troy, 419, besides many others.

Besides this large shipment of Angoras, there are now over 14,500 Angoras cats remaining in various sections of Maine. It is estimated that there are only 32,500 Angora cats in all America, compared with several millions of common cats.

The number of Angora cats in Maine is gradually diminishing, there being at least 1000 less each season. The demand is so great for them that the farmers cannot keep up with a sufficient supply. Maine people made over \$200,000 last year on their cats. This is rather a lucrative business when one stops to think that three years ago but few shipments could be recorded. The express companies are large buyers.

Judge Swing (2:08 4/5) was out on the New York Speedway last week taking his airing hitched to a runaway.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, MASS., AUGUST 12, 1899

Chicago, Chicago, you're certainly in a row! What other city under the sun would have conceived a notion so crazy and so indecent as yours of invading Admiral Oerster to come over for the Dwyer celebration? Better have a side-show for that and "welcome" to the General Toral when Spain has gotten through taking him over the coals for surrendering at Santiago.

We hope Boston's postoffice officials will soon see their way clear to take advantage of the new opportunity to do registry business at night. The rule which makes it impossible to get a money order cashed after six o'clock favors too much of the forest primeval. It is the laboring class that uses this mode of money conveyance, and these people are often mightily inconvenienced by the absurd rule noted.

Charles A. Coolidge and R. S. Peabody are the Boston architects concerned in the construction of the United States national pavilion at the Fair exposition, and La Farge, McKim and French are some of the other well-known Americans interested in the building which is to be the rallying place of Americans at the "grounds." Aren't you going to be among those who will register in the Massachusetts room on the second floor?

The State Board of Arbitration has not in a long time done a better stroke of work than that by which it settled the messenger by strike. Commissioner Barry is just the kind of affable gentleman to whom the boys would confide their side of the case, and quite the man, too, to make Manager Yetman see the thing fairly and broadly. For a small matter this strike was a mighty inconvenient one to the general public, and that the Board settled it promptly is very much to its credit.

Dear Bronx! Beethoven! How often during a Friday afternoon rehearsal we've wondered if you weren't thrilled through and through as the marvellous Ninth Symphony was being performed in front of you; and how frequently we've been sorry to expose your delicate sensibilities to the shock of the lighter things played at the "Pops." And now you are up in the old Public Library hall, far away from the shiver of viol and cello, and with only the music of the spheres to cheer your solitary soul. O temporal O mortal! It's too bad.

There seems to be a very good chance that General Diaz, president of the republic of Mexico, will be Boston's guest in October. This would be very pleasant for our city, for General Diaz is one of the few really great men now living. This worker of the Mexican miracle has been called by a recent author "the second American who has won and worn the title 'First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,'" and as you read of Mexico and this genius lost in Charles F. Lummis' "The Awakening of a Nation," you'll be inclined to concede the aptness of this designation.

There is a great scarcity of lobsters all along the New England coast, despite the millions of lobster eggs that have been hatched, and their young turned loose in this section. The artificial propagation of lobsters did not begin until 1870, and it was not until 1875 that the young lobsters get their growth the supply promises to be as large as it ever was. But the lobster, though itself voracious, is the prey of other fishes while it is small. This is especially true while the lobster is changing its shell, and the young lobster does this many times before it attains size and size to protect itself. One of the theories accounting for the scarcity of lobsters is that the millions of cod which the fish commission have put in the Atlantic destroy them while they are very small.

Since the death of its president by assassination, San Domingo seems likely to run the course of the South American and Spanish possessions and become the scene of factional disorder. There are several names mentioned as successor to the presidency, which will probably turn into a dictatorship. Without doubt, the people of the island would be better off if annexed to the United States, as they wanted to be nearly thirty years ago. President Grant favored the acquisition of this portion of the island, but he was opposed strongly by Senator Sumner, and this opposition caused the defeat of the treaty which President Grant presented to the Senate to ratify.

There is no power of government more liable to abuse than that given to judges to grant injunctions. In such case the right to do what in itself may be entirely proper is prohibited, and unless the restriction is obeyed the judge has the power to commit the offender for "contempt of court," denying him the constitutional right to trial by jury. Attorney General Griggs has announced that he intends to appear in protest against a corporation that has asked an injunction against its employees. He holds that it is time for the law to interpose when a law is violated, and that attempts to restrain men from doing their lawful work are unconstitutional. In this Attorney General Griggs is plainly right.

The town of Marblehead, Mass., has lately been celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. It is one of the historic places in Massachusetts, and in its earlier history was the home of many seafaring men, who carried its reputation to all parts of the world. One of the features of the celebration was the gathering of an exhibit showing some of the historic curiosities of the town. This was such an exhibit, by address given by H. J. Jones, J. H. Gregory, giving some facts in the history of Marblehead that are not generally known. Mr. Gregory's seeds have made the name Marblehead known throughout the Union. Many summer visitors from the large cities find Marblehead a pleasant residence during the summer months.

The American representatives at the peace commission scored a great victory in the recognition by the conference of the Monroe doctrine. When the principle was announced that it is the duty of governments not interested in a controversy between two States, an objection was made that under cover of this principle, European governments might take part in American difficulties. An agreement was made that the government of the United States should not take any part in European controversies, and that, on the other hand, no European government should interfere with American affairs. This places the Monroe doctrine on a firm basis of international law, and does away with the objection that it has no authority for any other government than our own.

I's good news that Boston's Benjamin Franklin is to be given a statue in Paris. The work is to be presented by the citizens of Philadelphia, and will be a replica of the \$14,000 one now in the Quaker City. Standing as it will at Passy, where Franklin made his home during his triumphal career as American minister to France, the statue will in worthy fashion celebrate what seems to have been the happiest period of the great man's life. Speaking of Paris and statues, it is interesting to pass on the announcement that to Mr. Paul Bartlett has been awarded the Lafayette school children monument commission, the progress of which has from time to time been noted in the BUDGET. Mr. Bartlett starts out with the recommendation of the architect of the Louvre and the goal which all his commissions seek. His appointment should inspire American sculptors to do good work.

This has been a summer when strikes of workmen have almost everywhere been more common than ever before. There is some surprise at this, as business is generally prosperous, and until the strikes came there were fewer out of work than for several years past. Both this is probably exactly the reason why so many workmen are ready to strike. The fact that they are employed gives them an idea that employers' profits are greater than they are, and that their share is not enough. Some have proposed making arbitration of labor difficulties compulsory. But such a rule would violate the first principle of liberty, that nobody can compel a man to labor unless he has been convicted of crime after trial. Neither would it be possible to oblige men with money to employ others at a fixed rate when they know that such wages would dissipate their capital.

A proposal to make a great National Park of the forest and lake region of northern Minnesota is strongly advocated by Western people. This section embraces the lakes and streams that contain the sources of the Mississippi. It is very important that these should be preserved from denudation of forests, leaving the country barren and desolate. The country has little value for agricultural purposes if used as a park, and its waters stocked with fish will become the paradise for sportsmen, and by worth more to the country than any other disposition that can be made of it. There are 3300 Indians within the limits of the park who make their living by fishing and hunting. They are peaceable, and make the best of guides for those who visit the region for sport. There is more valuable game in this region than anywhere else in the West. To keep it as a game preserve is probably the best thing that can be done with it.

Most of the pleas of Cuban leaders for the independence of their island are so plainly sentimental and theoretical that they prejudice the cause which they mean to advance. They appeal to the fact that they have long struggled for freedom as proof that they are entitled to it. But if they had been really united the Spanish would have been driven out without the interference of this country. All they did was to organize guerrilla bands and harass their oppressors. Such a warfare might be kept up for years without accomplishing anything. There is a years war in Cuba which ended only little more than 12 years ago. If the Cubans will begin to develop the resources of their island we shall have more faith in their ability to govern it. So long as the population is split into factions, each hating the other, this country must preserve peace by keeping there a military force sufficient to prevent open hostilities. So long as Cubans cannot restrain their propensity to faction there will be good reason to doubt their capacity for self government.

The Peace Conference seems to have been quite worth while, in spite of the doubts and misgivings so liberally inspired by its aims. The nations have in effect agreed upon a scheme of arbitration, which, if not infallible, fair to "serve" admirably. The treaty of "peaceful settlement" is richly worth the labors of a conference, and will, in all human probability, be the beginning of a great and beneficial change in the relations of nations and in the possible mass of human happiness it stands for every chance of being adopted, and, this done, we shall have at last an agreement among great and strong governments upon a specific means for avoiding war, an agreement to set up permanent machinery, always available, which may be resorted to in case of differences. The effectiveness of this arrangement lies, of course, in the fact that arbitration is made very easy and involves no humbling of pride. On the contrary, by the common consent of mankind, it is now agreed that there is a "better way" than war; that it is no longer wise or necessary to butcher human beings in order to compel obedience to the Golden Rule. Surely this is much!

A great deal of money raised by taxation is spent every year by both State and Federal governments in educating farmers. There are not only experiment stations maintained at large expense, but the State governments in most of the States have provided series of farmers' institutes in which suggestions as to how to farm profitably are given by speakers employed for that purpose at State expense. Much of this advice, which costs the recipients nothing, falls on unfruitful soil, and comes to naught. To a large extent it is given by the professors and teachers in the State agricultural colleges, who are often only theoretically acquainted with farming. Meanwhile we hear much less said about farmers' clubs, where farmers can meet informally and discuss among themselves the problems they have found hardest to solve. Wherever there is a live farmer, its members naturally talk over the difficulties of modern farming, and while none of the members have the scientific knowledge which is dispensed at the institutes, the Grange has probably done more to make farming successful than have all the institutes whose meetings are sustained at public expense.

An extraordinary result of a bank failure is reported from Chicago, in which it proved to be possibly the best thing that could have happened for the stockholders. More than 40 years ago the Third National Bank was put into the hands of a receiver, who so shrewdly managed the assets that in two or three years all the debts of the bank were paid in full. There were left after paying the debts several large parcels of land that were at the time unsalable. When Chicago secured the Columbian Exhibition, this land became valuable. The receiver was offered a million dollars for one hundred acres close to the exposition grounds. This alone was more than par for the stock which a few years before had been worthless. The receiver sold the land in pieces, and today this broken bank stock is worth twice its par value, as it has for years paid

good dividends and has now accumulated so much money that the bank has renewed its normal business of receiving deposits and loaning money. Some men who had faith in the broken bank assets bought up what stock they could get, and have made handsome fortunes, while the original holders of the stock might have made if they had possessed more faith. It is not often that a broken bank proves as valuable and successful as this.

One of the most gratifying facts in our exports of agricultural products is the large amount of wheat that now goes out as flour. In the fiscal year ending June 30 last, we exported eighteen million barrels of flour to foreign countries. This represents fully eighty million bushels of wheat. This manufacture of flour gives employment to American labor and capital, for the superiority of the flour manufactured in this country creates a market for it wherever it is sent. But it is not in the employment of labor in manufacturing it that the export of wheat as flour is advantageous to this country. All the by-products of the wheat, including bran and middlings, are left here to be used as stock feed. As every one now knows, these contain most of the plant food that the wheat crop has taken from the soil. We have at least 150,000,000 pounds of excellent stock feed, and one that is especially adapted to feeding wild corn. Because we grow and feed more corn than any other country, we have more corn than the bran and wheat middlings that our wheat will make available to the world. This use of the refuse of wheat at home for feeding will prevent the depletion of fertility from American farms, and it will also help to produce meats of all kinds and dairy products more cheaply than would be possible if we did not have it.

Growth of Our Wealth.
The nation's balance sheet for the year ending in June shows increases in the foreign trade that, all things considered, are marvellous. In spite of a war that disturbed the run of things, in spite of abundant crops in other countries, and a consequent decrease in the demand for food stuffs, the total of the foreign trade of the country reached the enormous sum of \$1,924,520,813, which is \$67,000,000 greater than in any previous year in the country's history, and the figures show the United States to be on the right side of the ledger by the enormous sum of \$559,366,037. We sell to other countries much more of our product than we buy of theirs. At the same time we purchased from other countries \$81,027,734 worth more of their products than we purchased in the preceding year.

The importance of the showing is here. Whereas in other years the imports of the products of other countries have consisted largely of their manufactured products, in the year just past the imports have consisted largely of raw materials of other countries, which we have taken into our factories, worked into the finished product and sold back to the countries from which we made the original purchase.

In 1898 70 per cent. of the exports of the United States consisted of agricultural and food products. Crops in other countries had been bad. The war was threatened, and with it there seemed a possibility of a blockade of American ports that would hinder the exporting of breadstuffs and all other products. For that reason Europe made haste to buy purchases of wheat, corn and the like. The storehouses were increased in size and they were filled to overflowing with American grain before the war. Our wheat for the year averaged 98.30 cents a bushel and our cotton 5.98 cents a pound. During the past week our wheat has averaged only 74.77 cents a bushel and our cotton 5.55 cents a pound. We exported this year 34,000,000 bushels less of corn than we did last year, and our exports of agricultural products generally footed up \$86,000,000 less than in 1898. These figures emphasize the wonderful progress that has been made by the American manufacturers. In spite of the great reduction in the value of agricultural products exported the total exports are within \$4,000,000 of the total of 1898. That is, \$82,000,000 of the \$86,000,000 loss in agricultural exports was made up by the increase in the export of manufactured products. The American manufacturers, while paying higher wages than the manufacturers of any country on the face of the globe, have been able to send their products abroad and sell them successfully in competition with the products of the lower paid workmen of the other countries.

A large part of the increased export of manufactured products has, of course, been in iron and steel, the demand for which in all parts of the world has been unprecedented.

Of the imports of the year, about \$300,000,000 were admitted free of duty and about \$400,000,000 were dutiable. There has been an increase in the value of the duty-free imports and an increase of \$101,200,360 in the dutiable imports. The duty-free imports are made up largely of raw materials of the Old World sent to our manufacturers to make into finished products. The report of the Bureau of Statistics shows an increase of \$45,000,000 worth of raw material for the use of our exporting manufacturers in the last twelve months, and that since the beginning of the revolution in trade that is going on. When American gain markets for their goods they seldom lose them, and the increase in the exports of manufactured articles is certain to continue.

With America's tremendous excess of exports over imports, and the consequent balance of trade, the gold of other countries must necessarily travel our way. The figures of the gold exports and imports for the fiscal year are interesting. During the year we imported \$51,432,517 more gold than we exported. During the year, also, we produced \$60,000,000 worth of gold in our own mines, so we have got \$10,000,000 more gold than we had a year ago. In the last three years we have imported \$201,071,000 more gold than we exported. In that time we have produced \$150,000,000 worth of gold from our mines, and it was not the fact that the gold we had and that we have \$300,000,000 or thereabouts more gold than we had when William McKimley ran for President, and the present Republican administration took charge of the affairs of the country.

One of the most helpful indications at the conference was the belief that this which

Readers who like figures might study with interest the following table of exports and imports for the past ten years:

Fiscal Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Over Import.
1890.	\$687,823,854	\$789,310,409	\$68,516,575
1891.	\$684,493,610	\$844,014,163	\$99,520,553
1892.	\$1,030,379,148	\$87,402,483	\$202,976,665
1893.	\$47,985,194	\$66,400,922	\$18,415,728
1894.	\$102,140,892	\$54,994,932	\$37,145,960
1895.	\$177,168,165	\$71,999,965	\$105,168,200
1896.	\$28,006,938	\$79,734,674	\$51,727,736
1897.	\$1,050,993,558	\$66,730,413	\$298,263,144
1898.	\$1,281,432,780	\$76,049,654	\$1,105,383,126
1899.	\$1,237,443,435	\$97,077,788	\$280,365,647

—New York Sun.

The Country School Teacher as a Social Factor.

A recent college graduate is now taking Dr. Edward Everett Hale's advice and is looking forward, not back. College and its delights are things of the past; life and its pressing problems are ahead.

In the lazy intervals of a well-earned vacation many earnest youths and maidens, freshly sent forth from some Alma Mater or other, are thoughtfully considering, therefore, where they may best invest their brains, enthusiasm and abundant health with which they are happily endowed.

Not our college-bred youth considering this "investing" merely in its financial aspect. Of the young women, at any rate, it is certainly true, as Mr. Samuel B. Capen has recently pointed out, that most of them have a very real desire to stand for something in the Godward work of the world. "One may help a young man in his education," says Mr. Capen, "and he may live only for himself and what this world may bring him, but I have known a woman who was educated who did nothing else but consecrate her life in some way to the good of others." The pressing question for many a college girl today is, What can I do to help?

The majority of college girl graduates teach, and most of them have the right ideals in regard to their work. They realize that the true teacher is a born artist, "pledged to the reverence of beauty and bound by the inner vision and by every sacred consideration to enhance the symmetry of their kind." Because they have ideals concerning the profession they are to follow, these young college women wish to secure for their labor the best possible material. For this reason they aim at high-school positions. We cannot believe that it is simply the salary which attracts college graduates to the work of the high school. We must conclude that the opportunity presented by the impressive age of the pupils is part of the attraction of high school positions. When our young women fully realize that the ungraded country school is very rich in chances for important social service, they will turn towards it, we must think, as steadily as they are now turning away from it.

An opportunity to earn a respectable livelihood, gain experience of men and things, and do some real good in the world—all that most of our young college women ask. This opportunity the little country schoolhouse would seem to offer. George Willis Cooke, in an able article just published by a contemporary, has described the school conditions in a typical New England hill town, and shows how vast is the field offered to devoted social college graduates to the work of the high school. We must conclude that the opportunity presented by the impressive age of the pupils is part of the attraction of high school positions. When our young women fully realize that the ungraded country school is very rich in chances for important social service, they will turn towards it, we must think, as steadily as they are now turning away from it.

A Triumph for Peace.

Although the Peace Conference at the Hague did not accomplish the principal result for which it was called, it must still be regarded as making a decided progress towards the time when war shall be a thing of the past.

There is to be no disarmament, and nations will go on as they have done in making preparations for armed conflict. But the provision for international arbitration has been established, and also the further principle that in cases where differences exist between two governments a third may offer its services to effect a settlement without being regarded as meddling with what is none of its business. Of course, only moral influence can be used to prevent war, but the protest of a disinterested third party against fighting will be more effective than is generally thought. In almost all wars each side believes itself to be in the right. Neither will hear the other. But let another government interpose, and it will have the right to do so, and both contestants may be induced to listen to reason.

Henceforth it becomes the duty of all governments to seek the things that make for peace. There will be an increasing moral sentiment among civilized nations that will make the increase of armaments unnecessary. In time this necessity for arbitrating national differences will cease governments to make making preparations for war that is unlikely to come. In that time the dream of national disarmament will probably come.

has just been held is only the first of a series that are to follow hereafter. There are new questions arising which such international councils will be needed to settle satisfactorily. The success of this council will give prestige to those that follow, and without much doubt the principles which the majority of nations agree to will be many years as regarded as at least morally obligatory on all. Thus will be realized that Parliament of Man and Federation of the World which the English poet Alfred Tennyson predicted in his poem, "Locksley Hall," which was written while he was a young man. It was one of the best of his poems.

Old Boston.

Some Famous Taverns of Old Boston.

It is told in the old records that within a minute's walk of what was supposed to be the site of the old conduit (towards the building of which Capt. Robert Keyne, the first commander of the Anselm and Honorable Artillery Company, gave a large sum for those days, he dying in March, 1659), there was more of historical interest than elsewhere on the peninsula, or what then constituted the town of Boston. The conduit, which answered the purpose of a reservoir in that day, was in or near Ann street, now North street, and that portion of the thoroughfare on which it was placed was for a long time known as Conduit street. When one got from there into what is now Washington street he was in the High or Main street leading to Burying, but if he wanted to divert his route he branched off into streets and lanes which were called by the names of the persons who lived in them.

Near to Ann street, which many of your readers will recollect had not a very early reputation even in later days, stood what was known as the Old Dock, and the old corn market was the Sun Tavern. In later times it became the grocery store of George Murdoch. His successor was A. A. Wellington, who in process of years by the continual parking of trade found himself in the neighborhood of the Old South Church, on Washington street, where his business career ended. This old Sun Tavern must have been a wonderful place. It dated back certainly as far as 1600. It was one of the last survivors of the earlier landmarks of the town, and was in its day and generation one of the most conspicuous edifices about the Old Dock. It was only a residence, however, and a "tap," afterwards a grocery, and finally a market. Probably not one of the early houses of the town of Boston had such a varied career as this old building, which was by half a century older than Faneuil Hall, from the spire of which Shem Drowne's grasshopper looked down upon it for many years. One Thomas Phillips, in 1703, obtained a license to distill rum, and afterwards a residence, and then a "tap," afterwards a grocery, and finally a market. Probably not one of the early houses of the town of Boston had such a varied career as this old building, which was by half a century older than Faneuil Hall, from the spire of which Shem Drowne's grasshopper looked down upon it for many years. One Thomas Phillips, in 1703, obtained a license to distill rum, and afterwards a residence, and then a "tap," afterwards a grocery, and finally a market. 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Sorymsour and Son.

Cold is the lady of my love,
In vain of her I dream.
How could she aught but frigid prove?
She eats so much ice cream.
—Town Topic

[illegible]

One Sunday afternoon Miss Marion Fullers came to the school and told the girls that she wanted them to speak to their teacher.

"Well, dearies, what is it?" asked Miss Marion, looking around the circle of her eager-eyed pupils.

They hung their heads and smiled, and looked at one another speechless.

"This must be something very important," laughed Miss Marion, "but somebody please tell me about it! Won't you, Kittie?"

Thus singled out, Kittie Osborne said one small head coarsely under Miss Marion's arm, and, gazing at her, she said:

"It's just that we want to be a society, please, Miss Marion. All our sisters are in societies, and we thought maybe we could make one,—just like the others. I don't know if it's possible, but I would only show us how. They say we are too little to help anything, and that's what societies are for. But you don't think we are, do you, Miss Marion?"

Miss Marion sat down in a chair at the end of the aisle, and drew them all close around her.

"Indeed, I do not! I think that you could be just as good a society as any of the others. I think that you wish to help. But you must remember, little girls, that, if we are really going to help anybody, we must be willing to give up some of our own pleasure to do it. You know that, don't you?"

"Yes'm," said the little girls.

—It was sixty-five years ago that the first main-line railway passenger cars left Boston on the Boston and Worcester Railroad. From the day on (a wooden shed which stood on the north side of the single track near the Washington Street bridge, for Davis' tavern in Newton. The first train was the "Fruit and Vegetable" train to Westborough Nov. 16, and throughout its entire length July 9, 1835. The Western Railroad was opened to Springfield Oct. 1, 1839, and on Oct. 23, 1843, the Boston and Albany line. At that time there were but 210 miles of railway in Massachusetts, and but 3535 in the United States.

—An ordinance passed by the authorities of Port Orange, now Albany, on Dec. 10, 1869, was as follows: "The W. Commissary and Commissioners of Port Orange and Village of Beveridge, do hereby order and direct that all the Burglars of this place against playing Golf through the streets, which caused great damage to the windows of the Houses, and exposes people to the danger of being wounded, and is contrary to the freedom of the Public Streets; Therefore

[illegible]

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children of Christ Jē'sus.
 brethren, I count not myself to
 apprehended: but *this one*
I do, forgetting those things
 which are behind, and reaching forth
 every thing by prayer and
 with thanksgiving, let
 requests be made known unto
 7 And the peace of God
 passeth all understanding.

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